

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

Department of State

1959 MAR 6 PM 05

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VERBATIM TEXT

TO: Embassy, PARIS 3267 PRIORITY
 Embassy, LONDON 1970 PRIORITY
 Embassy, BONN 2012 PRIORITY
 Embassy, MOSCOW 1406
 Embassy, BERLIN 582

Following is text of US proposed draft reply to Soviet note of March 2, 1959. ~~Consideration of the Russian Embassy in Bonn, Bonn, March 6, 1959.~~ London, Paris and Bonn Embassies are requested to pass text immediately to FOMOFFS.

Begin Text: The Government of the US refers to the note of the Government of the USSR of March 2, 1959 in response to the US note of February 16 proposing a conference of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of France, USSR, UK and US.

The Government views with favor those statements in the Soviet note which indicate that the Soviet Government believes there remains a possibility for collaboration among the Four Powers on important questions relating to Germany. The US Government has consistently favored meetings of interested powers that could provide opportunities for conducting serious discussions of major problems and could be an effective means of reaching agreement on significant subjects. It was for this reason that the US Government in its note of February 16 proposed a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of France, USSR...

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Dated by: EUR:EE/MLcon, JMMcSweeney:
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Telegraphic transmission and
 Classification approved by:

Christian A. Herter
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Classroom

GER-Hallenbrand TO: Walsley S. P. Kretzmann P. Smith
 L-Becker

(absent) S/S. EUR-Merchant

Re: arrangements for 3/5/59

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DATE

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USSR, UK and the US. The US Government notes with satisfaction the Soviet Government's agreement to such a meeting.

Needless to say, negotiations would offer little promise for success if any party were to take unilateral action on the matters under consideration. In this connection, the US Government has noted with particular attention recent declarations by Soviet leaders and the statement in the Soviet note which indicate that the Soviet Government may hold the intention of concluding a separate peace treaty with the so-called German Democratic Republic which would make the latter QTE complete masters of communications between West Berlin and the German Federal Republic UNQTE. Such a move could result in attempts at interference with the right of free access of the Western powers to Berlin, reaffirmed most recently by the Soviet Government along with the Governments of France, the UK and the US by the agreement of June 1949 which eliminated the threat to peace raised by the Soviet blockade of Berlin in 1948. Unilateral action by the USSR which could bring about such a situation could not be construed as a peaceful move nor one that would contribute to a peaceful settlement.

Specifically the US Government proposes that a meeting of France, USSR, UK and the US at the Foreign Minister level be convened in Geneva on May 11, 1959 to consider questions relating to Germany, including a peace treaty with Germany and the question of Berlin. German advisers should be present and should be consulted. Progress made by the

Foreign Ministers in dealing with these problems, could open up prospects for a successful meeting of Heads of Government.

The US Government fully recognizes that Poland and Czechoslovakia, like a number of other European countries, have a legitimate and direct interest in matters connected with the settlement of problems relating to Germany. The possibility of their participation at a certain stage in negotiations could therefore be contemplated. However, the US Government believes that the proposed meeting should at least at the outset involve the Four Powers directly responsible for Germany.

The Government of the US, in proposing a Foreign Ministers' meeting on May 11, understands that the Soviet Government would find Geneva a suitable location. The Government of the US is therefore inquiring of the Government of Switzerland to determine if this place and time would be convenient and also of the Secretary General of the UN to ascertain if the facilities of the UN can be made available. End text.

Herter ACTING
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HERTER